

AN AUTHENTIC
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE and MEMOIRS
OF
Mr. *WILLIAM SMITH*,
AN
Unfortunate CONVICT,
Executed at *Tyburn*, on the 3d of
October, 1750, for FORGERY.

In which are inserted some
ORIGINAL LETTERS, and an ODE,
never yet published.

ALSO THE
SPEECH of a Great PRELATE, to an
Eminent LADY, on her presenting a Pe-
tition in his Behalf.

The Whole carefully supervised by a Gentleman,
late of *Trinity-College, Dublin*, to whom he com-
mitted the Inspection of all his Letters, Papers,
&c. for the Satisfaction of the Public.

Written by HIMSELF.

Illud in his rebus non addunt nec tibi carum,
Jam desiderium rerum super insidet una. LUCR.
Nascentes morimur, finisque ab origine pendet. MAN.
—Omnia te vita perfuncta sequentur. OVID.
—Miser, O Miser! (aiunt) omnia ademit,
Una dies infesta mihi tot præmia vitæ. LUCR.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

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A C C O U N T

of the

Business

of the

Year

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885

1886

1887

1888

1889



THE
LIFE and MEMOIRS
OF
Mr. *WILLIAM SMITH.*

EVERY Climate, every Soil, are
equally productive of Virtue and of
Vice; but, from some remarkable
Fatality, the Natives of *Ireland* are
more frequently brought to an exemplary Pun-
ishment than their neighbouring Islanders,
and generally occasion the greatest Augmen-
tation among the *British* Malefactors. How
various, how inconsistent are the Tempera-
tures and Dispositions of Men? Not less un-
like than their different Features: A *French-*
man is airy, amorous, and contentious; a
Dutchman is the very reverse of the *Frenchman*;
for these Republicans only are attentive to
the Preservation of that commercial Interest,
which, originally, extricated their Ancestors
from the tyrannical Insolence of the *Spanish*
Monarch: The principal Characteristic of a
German is Integrity, and a peculiar Genius,
not only for mechanical Invention, but also
for a singular Excellency in the literal Sci-
ences; A *Spaniard* holds the politer Arts in
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little Estimation ; and, like his degenerate Neighbour, the *Portuguese*, is naturally addicted more to Avarice and Pride, than to Industry and Sincerity : The improving *Russians* are now emerging from the Veil of *Gothic* Ignorance, are throwing off their Rust of Barbarity, and giving a gentle Invitation to the vagrant Muses ; while *Greece* finds the Extirpation of all her Heroes, all her Poets, and all her Sages, and the *Mahomedan* Crescent shine too lambently ineffectual to retard the soaring Flight of the *Muscovite* Eagle : The boorish *Scandinavians* are still addicted to their primeval Laziness in Agriculture, and their luxurious Excess in carousing over the nectarean Product of the Vintage ; while the *Italians* are still retentive of their Ancestors Ingenuity in the most ornamental and pleasing Sciences, though they are totally degenerated from their military Accomplishments : And *Britain* is remarkable for an honest Bravery, a commendable Industry, with that innate Love of Liberty, which exalted ancient *Rome* to all Sublimity of Magnificence, and which is the most glorious Privilege of human Nature : But the Natives of *Ireland* have too faint a Resemblance of the *British* Inhabitants, to be intitled to the same meritorious Appellations, though, according to Dr. *Heylin*, if the *Irish* are good, we can hardly meet with better People ; and, if they are bad, we can nowhere find worse. But whence this Prolixity so excursive from the Subject ? Why, to bring a Manifestation that the Natives of *Ireland*, if not equally laudable with those of
Britain

Britain, yet are not more contemptible than some other of the *European Nations*.

The Inhabitants of all the different Territories of *Europe* are indubitably the Descendants of the ancient *Gomerians*, or *Celtes*, who, after the Dispersion at *Babel*, took their several Migrations according to the Inclinations of the different Tribes: The *Germans*, *Gauls*, *Britons*, and *Hibernians* were long possessed of the same Dialect, and accustomed to similar Manners; with Regard to the former, *Ireland* can still boast the Longevity of an uncorrupted Language; but, indeed, as to the Refinement of Society, all the other Nations enjoy the Superiority. Sir *Henry Sidney*, Lord-Deputy of *Ireland*, under Queen *Elizabeth*, was the principal Person who attempted to civilize the savage Dispositions of the wild and unpolished *Hibernians*; he made them sensible of the moral and social Virtues, taught them how to imbibe the sacred Precepts of Humanity, pointed out to them the Beatitudes of Liberty, and instructed them in the Benefits resulting from a commercial Inter-course with the rest of Mankind: But, notwithstanding the continual Improvements of the *Irish* Nation, for more than the two last Centuries, the Inhabitants are still despicably groaning beneath the Affliction of Penury and Necessity. Is it not strange then that so beautiful an Island should be so greatly disregarded by her opulent Sister? Is it not amazing, that a Country of such Fertility, a Land endowed with such Redundance of every common Benefit, adapted for the Preservation, the

Utility, and the Pleasure of human Nature, should be so shamefully neglected by its principal Natives, as to be left in a languishing Condition, and the poor Inhabitants to be incumbered with such Calamities as to seek for Refuge in the uncultivated Tracts of *America*, while their Nobility are lavishly squandering away their Treasures in the Arms of Luxury and Intemperance? Happy, yet miserable *Ireland*, to what Purpose has gracious Providence encompassed thy verdant Shores with commodious, safe, and capacious Harbours? To what end are thy rich Pastures crowned with exuberant Herbage? Why thy innumerable Flocks increasing their fleecy Honours, and of what Avail are thy Multitudes of Inhabitants! since thy free Exercise of maritime Interest is prohibited, thy Woollen Manufactory interdicted, and thy Natives compelled to seek for military Employments from that Monarch who reposes his Security on the Valour of thy Sons, and who receives an additional Revenue by encouraging that Manufactory in *France*, which is denied to thee. Where Industry ne'er offers her smiling Countenance, there Poverty takes up her hateful Residence. Dishonesty is the Attendant of Sloth, and Rapine the Child of Necessity; these have too frequently infested the Soil of *Ireland*; often have their Ravages extended to the very Center of the *British* Dominions, and seldom have they escaped with Impunity. The malignant Blood of *Ireland* many times has streamed before the Lancet of Justice, and yet the Depravity is still existing among the inferior People; nor does

does it afford the greatest Mark of Admiration, when a due Consideration is had to their several Educations, their superstitious Attachment to Popery, and their implicit Confidence in their Priests, who some of them are as little scrupulous in absolving an obnoxious Crime, as a Villain is of perpetrating it: But, alas! what can be urged in Defence of such as have enjoyed the Benefits of a liberal Education, who have known the Blessing of the Protestant Religion, and yet have vitiated their Morals so as to render their Lives detestable to Society, and equally exposed to the Severity of the Law with the most vulgar and illiterate Criminal. Such was the unhappy Case of the unfortunate Mr. *William Smith*, a Man possessed of many amiable Qualities requisite for the Enlargement of Conversation; a Man of extraordinary Sense and Abilities, of an attracting Behaviour and a graceful Gentility; but all of them perverted to such abominable Use, as to make him fall a just, though lamented Victim to the Severity of the offended Law; and, therefore, he has been esteemed an Object worthy of the Public's Considerations, as his Life may be a sufficient Admonition to deter un-wary Youth from straying into the delusive Maze of Vice, and continuing in that treacherous Labyrinth, till they lose their Lives in the fatal Jaws of that devouring *Minotaur*.

This unhappy Gentleman was the only Son of the Rev. *John Smith*, Rector of the Parish of *Kilmore*, in the County of *Meath*, within the Kingdom of *Ireland*; his Benefit was about 300*l.* a Year. He was a Man remarkable

able for his Sanctity, Virtue, and Charity ; and he conferred a very liberal Education upon his Son, who had the Misfortune to see his Reverend Father descended to the Grave, while his filial Offspring was yet in his Minority. The good Clergyman was also survived by his Widow and one Daughter ; his patrimonial Estate and personal Effects were equally divided between the Mother and her two Children, the Whole amounting to 2700 *l.* and the Proportion of the Son to 900 *l.* *William*, on the Decease of his Father, was continued at School till he was capable of receiving Admission into the University of *Dublin*, or of being apprenticed to some genteel and reputable Employment : However, as he was the peculiar Favourite of his Mother, he received all the Indulgence of maternal Fondness ; and, instead of being advantageously situated in the World, he was continually permitted to pursue every rural Recreation, till he arrived at an adult Age, when he was empowered to demand the Possession of his own Fortune, which made himself too opinionatively important to submit to the Controul of any Superior. He was now advancing in the twenty-second Year of his Age, when he contracted an Acquaintance with — — —, a Gentleman possessed of a genteel Fortune in the County of *Meath*, who made his Addresses to the Sister of Mr. *Smith*, and soon afterwards became one of the Family by marrying the young Lady : This matrimonial Consanguinity increased the Intimacy between Mr. *Smith* and Mr. — — ; their Days rotted away in the most agreeable Harmony, and each

each of them seemed to participate the utmost Felicity in the Corroboration of their Friendship; but Mr. — had involved himself in so many Difficulties in the Law, that he was obliged to seek Security by retiring from the Places he usually frequented. At this Time Mr. *Smith* very perceptibly discovered the Diminution of the greatest Part of his Fortune; however his Affection to his Sister and his Friendship for Mr. — were more predominant in his Mind than the Consultation of his own Interest; and the Remainder of his Fortune was soon afterwards exhausted in the Maintenance of his Sister and the Service of her Husband. The Mother of Mr. *Smith* had already supplied Mr. — with a considerable Part of her Fortune, and, being unwilling utterly to impoverish herself, she very prudently denied any further Assistance; which obliged Mr. — to make his Departure from *Ireland* for the Security of his Person, and in Hopes of obtaining some profitable Employment at Sea, as there were Wars then vigorously prosecuted against the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*; however Mr. —, before he quitted the *Irish* Dominions, executed a Bond to Mr. *Smith*, in a large Penalty, for the Payment of 90*l.* and upwards, for which he stood indebted to him; after which Mr. — proceeded to *Bristol*, where he procured a considerable Station on board one of the Ships belonging to the Flotilla, called, *The Royal Family Privateers*; where he continued till the Cessation of Arms, and became intitled to considerable Sums of Money for his Dividend of the Captures.

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On the Departure of Mr. —, the unfortunate Mr. *Smith* was reduced to a very necessitous Condition; his Poverty was so great, that it broke down the Fences of Honesty, and prompted him to perpetrate a notorious Crime, by imposing a Forgery on Mr. *Swift* and Company, Bankers, in *Dublin*, for which he was obliged to quit the Kingdom; and, to evade the diligent Search of those Gentlemen, he shipped himself on board his Majesty's Ship the *Surprize*, commanded by Captain *Webb*, who employed him as his Clerk, and with whom he continued till the Expiration of the War, with which he found his own Interest was ended; therefore, to free himself of the Apprehensions of being detained any longer in the Fleet, he forged the Names of the signing Officers of the Ship to his own Ticket, with which he left the Service, sold the Ticket at *Portsmouth*, and set out for *London*. On his Arrival in this great Metropolis, he contracted an Acquaintance with Miss — —, a very agreeable young Lady of the Town, and now a Prisoner for Debt in the *Marshalsea*, with whom he cohabited till his Money was exhausted; and then he began to write in the Capacity of a Clerk with a Gentleman of the Law, in the Neighbourhood of *Lincoln's-Inn*, with whom he continued a considerable Time in the greatest Reputation and Esteem. During the Time he wrote with this Gentleman, he very diligently applied himself to Business; by which he was capable of procuring an agreeable Livelihood: Here he again met with
his

his Brother-in-law, Mr. ——— and received him with all the Denotations of a sincere Friendship, and undissembled Affection ; moreover, as a Proof of his Sincerity, on the Information of Mr. ——— that he was unable to discharge the Bond, Mr. *Smith* committed it to the Flames, in the Presence of several creditable Persons, at a Public-house in *Portugal-street*. Mr. ——— and he but seldom saw one another, after the Destruction of the Bond.

Mr. *Smith* diligently attended his Business, and by his graceful Demeanour, entertaining Conversation, and Classical Knowledge, established himself in the general Love of his Acquaintance ; but, tho' he had hitherto escaped the Observation of those Gentlemen he had offended, he incurred the Chastisement of Heaven, in labouring under a severe Fit of the Rheumatism, which confined him almost a Month to his Bed ; therefore when his Money was all spent, and most of his Cloaths in Pledge for the Procuration of common Necessaries, he was, at last, obliged to get admitted into St. *George's Hospital*, near *Hyde-Park-Corner*, where he continued under a tedious Indisposition for the Space of six Months, before he was capable of exercising his Limbs, when he was discharged with the best of Characters, conferred upon him by all the principal Attendants belonging to the Hospital. Immediately, on his Discharge, he repaired to his former Place in the Neighbourhood of *Lincoln's-Inn* ; but his Joints were so contracted with his Rheumatic Disorder,

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that he was incapable of procuring his usual Support ; and, in this pitiful Exigency, he had the Unhappiness to meet with *Walter Patterson* at a Public-house in *Clare-Market*, where, as Country-men, they contracted an Intimacy, very fatal to Mr. *Smith*. *Patterson* had been originally bred to the Law in *Dublin*, where he pretended he had been admitted an Attorney of the Court of *Exchequer* ; which drew the Credulity of Mr. *Smith*, and occasioned him to repose an implicit Confidence in whatever *Patterson* asserted, who exceeded his whole Country in the Art of Disimulation. *Patterson* was in little better Circumstances than Mr. *Smith* ; he had associated himself with some other of his despicable Country-men, and, if not fraudulently, it was certainly very artfully, that he and his Confederates obtained some considerable Sums of Money from a very eminent Physician, either for the real, or the pretended committing a very atrocious, detestable, and unnatural Crime. Mr. *Smith* was entirely prevented, by the Remains of his Disorder, from procuring any Manner of Subsistence ; his Credit was little, his Apparel only the necessary Covering of his Nakedness ; and, in this indigent State, *Patterson*, with his Accomplices, prevailed on Mr. *Smith* to engage in one of their Schemes for extorting a more considerable Sum from the Physician, in which they succeeded, and divided the Money. After this Mr. *Smith* and *Patterson* took Lodgings together in *Duke-street*, near *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, where they lived in a good deal of Gaiety, continually frequenting the Coffee-houses and Taverns adjacent

jacent to *Covent-Garden*, with some of the Players, till their Pockets were almost disburthened. Poverty generally breeds Discontent ; it did so between Mr. *Smith* and *Patterson*, they parted Lodgings ; but *Patterson* had the Advantage, as he had a Method of obtaining Money in a clandestine Manner, which he never communicated to the other, because he had found him too conscientiously scrupulous in the Transaction he had already been privy to. Some Dispute happening between them relative to the defraying the Expences of their Lodging in *Duke-street*, Words arose, and so great a Variance ensued, that Mr. *Smith* insisted *Patterson* should never afterwards endeavour to associate himself in his Company ; and, from that Time, Mr. *Smith* was entirely ignorant of every Proceeding undertaken by *Patterson*, or any of his Accomplices, either against Mr. *Walpole*, or any other Person.

Mr. *Smith*, on his Diffension with *Patterson*, was in so necessitous a Condition, that he rashly adventured to visit the eminent Physician above-mentioned, with Hopes of extorting a Sum of Money from him ; he was easily admitted, and demanded a Supply, but, on a Refusal, clapped a Pistol to the Breast of the old Gentleman, and insisted upon his immediately giving him five Guineas ; the Physician was astonished at such an unexpected Attack ; he seized *Smith* by the Collar, and snatched the Pistol out of his Hand ; but, in the Scuffle, *Smith* regained it. The Physician then told him, he durst not shoot him ; *Smith* was exanimated ; he dropped on his

Knees, and intreated the Physician to forgive the Injury ; the other gave him Assurances of his Safety, supplied him with three Guineas, and permitted him to escape unmolested from the Pursuit of his Servants.

Immediately after this Affair, Mr. *Smith* contracted an Acquaintance, with Mr. ———, and another Person, who was formerly a Trooper in the Regiment commanded by Sir *John Ligonier* ; they lodged together a considerable Time, and lived constantly with one another in the greatest Familiarity : Mr. *Smith* was still in a very necessitous Condition, and Mr. ——— was also impoverished ; they acted some sharpening Tricks in Conjunction, and Poverty instigated the former to commit that Act of Injustice which occasioned the Deprivation of his Life. Mr. ——— was in daily Expectation of a Remittance from *Ireland*. His Letters from that Country were generally directed to be left at the *Temple-Exchange* Coffee-house in *Fleet-street* ; and, as he was apprehensive of being arrested, he sent Mr. *Smith* to make Enquiry after the Letter. After frequently calling at the *Temple-Exchange* Coffee-house, Mr. *Smith* at last received the expected Letter, directed to Mr. *Weekes* ; he knew there was a Remittance inclosed, upon which he opened the Letter, where he found a Bill of Exchange for 45 *l.* drawn, in Favour of Mr. *Thomas Weekes*, by Mr. *Thomas Bouffield*, a Merchant in *Cork*, on his Correspondent, Mr. *Jenathan Gurnell* and Company, Merchants in *London* ; the Sight of this Bill, the greedy Expectation of receiving the Money, and the Hopes of relieving his Necessity, induced

induced Mr. *Smith* to think of defrauding Mr. *Weekes*, by counterfeiting his manual Signature by way of Indorsement on the Bill of Exchange; which he accordingly did, and also forged a Receipt for the Sum of 10 *l.* which he understood Mr. *Weekes* had received from Mr. *Gurnell* on the Credit of this Bill of Exchange, when the first Advice came to his Hands. As there was 35 *l.* due on the Bill of Exchange, Mr. *Smith* went immediately to the House of Mr. *Gurnell*, and demanded the Payment of the Money; when the Clerk belonging to that Gentleman acquainted Mr. *Smith*, that his Master was not at Home, and he could not undertake the Payment of it without his Orders; but that, if Mr. *Smith* would call again in the Afternoon, he might have an Opportunity of seeing Mr. *Gurnell*.

Upon this Disappointment, Mr. *Smith* was obliged to study some more artful Stratagem to delude the Merchant; which, when he had done, he waited upon, and was introduced to Mr. *Gurnell*, who told him he was not inclinable to pay the Money to any other Person but Mr. *Weekes*; Upon which, Mr. *Smith* replied, that Mr. *Weekes* was extremely ill, and was incapable of quitting his Bed. Mr. *Gurnell* then asked him where Mr. *Weekes* had his Lodgings, and, being particularly informed of the House, which was situated near *Oxford-market*, he told Mr. *Smith*, that he would send his Clerk with the Money to Mr. *Weekes* the next Morning. This was no more than what Mr. *Smith* expected, and, against which, he had taken a very subtle Precaution; for, on his

his Departure from the Merchant, he instantly went to the House where he pretended Mr. — had his Lodgings; though, at the same Time, he knew Mr. — had privately quitted them a Day or two before, for Fear of being arrested by his Landlord (to whom he made an extraordinary Apology for the Conduct of — acquainted him that — was apprehensive of an Arrest, which prevented him from receiving a Sum of Money on the Bill of Exchange, which he produced; told him that the Merchant's Clerk would be there the next Morning to pay the Money to *Weekes*, informed him of what he had related to Mr. *Gurnell*, assured him that *Weekes* intended to pay him for his Lodgings, and that there was no other Way of doing it than by permitting *Smith* to carry on the Deceit, by going to Bed there, and personating himself for the indisposed Mr. *Weekes*. The Scheme succeeded, he was admitted to Bed, and, in the Morning, the Merchant's Clerk was shewn into the Room, where he found the imaginary Mr. *Weekes* in a State that had all the Appearances of the pretended Indisposition. He delivered his Message, said he had brought the Money, and laid it down upon the Table; with a mimic faltering Speech, Mr. *Smith* desired him to leave it, and signed his Name to a Receipt for the Money, which he had ready drawn up. The Clerk left him, Mr. *Smith* immediately rose from the Bed, and made directly off, without paying any Thing to the Man of the House.

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When Mr. *Smith* had got the 35 *l.* in his Custody, he immediately reflected how to appropriate it to the best Advantage, because he was sensible that his Transactions with *Patterson* were publickly known throughout the whole Circle of his Acquaintance; he was conscious his Character had been vilified on that Occasion; and he was timorous either of returning to his Business, or resorting among his usual Company. He therefore came to a Resolution of detaining the principal Part of the Money from Mr. *Weekes*, and to embark himself for some of the *American* Colonies; but, as he knew the Necessity of Mr. *Weekes*, he was determined to leave him a Part of the Money, sufficient to defray his Expences to *Ireland*; then he considered that the Remainder would be too insignificant to appear abroad in a Character of any Gentility; and therefore he was incited to attempt another Forgery on a very eminent Gentleman, who was, at that Time, involved in such a Manner by a Combination of *Patterson* and other Adherents, as to give Mr. *Smith* a strong Plausibility of succeeding in his intended Fraud.

Patterson, immediately after his Difference with Mr. *Smith*, began to put in Execution a Scheme which he had, long before, projected against the Honourable *Edward Walpole*, Esq; and he, together with his Accomplices, so artfully managed the Affair, as to obtain a Bill of Indictment against that Gentleman, on a villainous Prosecution, which terminated in the Imprisonment of *Patterson*, and the Conceal-

cealment of his Accomplices ; though *Patterson* found Means to escape from his Confinement, and evade the Execution of the Sentence pronounced against him at *Hicks's-ball*, for stimulating so base a Prosecution against Mr. *W*——

Before the Prosecution against Mr. *W*—— came to an Issue in the Court of *King's-Bench*, it was the general Conversation of the Town ; Mr. *Smith* unfortunately became acquainted with the Report, and, without imparting his Design to any other Person, formed the Resolution of attempting to defraud Mr. *Walpole* of a considerable Sum of Money, by a very extraordinary Contrivance, which he immediately put in Execution.

The Nature of this Fraud was, by forging a Bond from *Walter Patterson* to *William Smith*, in the Penalty of a considerable Sum, conditioned for the Payment of 150 *l.* which bore the Appearance of a proper Attestation, and seemed to be obtained in a due Course of Legality. Mr. *Smith*, after depositing seventeen Guineas in the Hands of a Publican near *Hyde-Park-Corner*, to be delivered to Mr. *Weekes*, immediately took this counterfeit Bond to Mr. *Walpole*, who was then resident at his Seat in *Berkshire*.

Smith made a very genteel Appearance, and was immediately admitted to the Presence of Mr. *Walpole*, when he gave him Information that *Patterson* had borrowed the Sum of 150 *l.* for which he had perfected the above-mentioned

oned Bond, which he produced. *Smith* told Mr. *W*—— that he understood *Patterson* was carrying on a fraudulent Prosecution against him ; for supporting of which, *Patterson* had borrowed this Money of *Smith*, who declared he was entirely ignorant of the Purpose for which *Patterson* intended to apply it ; and acquainted Mr. *Walpole* that, if he would pay off the Bond, it should be assigned over to him, whereby he would have an Opportunity of putting it into immediate Execution against *Patterson* ; which would effectually extinguish the Virulence of the Prosecution, projected by *Patterson* against Mr. *W*——

After patiently attending to the Declaration of so plausible a Fiction, Mr. *W*—— was alarmed ; he told *Smith*, that he had Reason to conjecture him rather as an Abettor, and a Spy, come down in the Behalf of *Patterson*, than as a Friend to himself ; and therefore he must beg Leave to detain him, till he could receive some satisfactory Account of his Character. *Smith* found himself circumvented, and apologized against his Detention ; he endeavoured to escape, but in vain : He was secured, taken before a Magistrate, examined, and, after some Equivocations, relating to his Parentage and Place of Nativity, was committed to *Reading* Gaol, on the 6th of *June* last, in order to his Arraignment at the then approaching Assizes at *Abingdon*.

When *Smith* was thus detected, the Nature of his Offence was almost instantaneously communicated to the Public ; which occasi-

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oned Mr. *Weekes* to procure a Writ of *Habeas Corpus*, for his Removal from *Reading* to *Newgate*, in order to take his Trial at the *Old-Baily*, for the Forgery he had committed in the Name of Mr. *Weekes*, who got a Bill of Indictment to be found against him at *Hicks's-Hall*, upon which he was arraigned at the *Old-Baily* in the Month of *July*, when he pleaded Not guilty ; but as he was thoroughly conscious of his Crime, and unprepared for Eternity, he was desirous of procrastinating his Sentence ; and, therefore, upon his Allegation in his own Affidavit, that the Time was too short for producing some Witnesses necessary to his Defence, the Lord Chief Baron *Parker* granted him the Indulgence of deferring his Trial till the following Sessions. In the mean time, the Publican, with whom *Smith* had deposited the seventeen Guineas, came to *Newgate*, and asked him to whom he must deliver the Money ; *Smith* told him to *Weekes*, who accordingly received it.

Conscience was now a very sufficient Accuser to the unfortunate Mr. *Smith* ; all his Crimes were glaringly apparent to his perturbed Soul ; he knew he could only expiate the Offences of his Life, but by suffering an ignominious Death ; and he devoutly began to solicit the Procuration of celestial Mercy. To aggravate his Misfortunes, all his Crimes were accumulated upon him together, and he, who had so long evaded the diligent Search of such as he had formerly offended, now found himself intangled in an accidental Snare, from which he could no otherwise escape

scape than by the Separation of Soul and Body. Mess. *Swift* and Company had Intelligence of his Confinement, and took all the Precaution with the Government for having him transmitted to *Ireland*, if he was acquitted of the Forgery against Mr. *Weekes*; the Commissioners of the Navy also directed their Solicitor to prosecute him for the Forgeries he committed on Board the *Surprize*; and this unhappy Delinquent had no other Hopes of his Life than by the Clemency of the Legislature, which, though heinous as he knew his Offences to be, he too strongly presumed on, through the delusive Expectations of influencing the Regency with the tender and pathetic Elocution of his Pen, his genteel Behaviour, and Denotations of the sincerest Penitence.

In this abandoned melancholy Condition, the miserable Mr. *Smith* saw himself surrounded with every Affliction incident to the contemplative Mind; the gloomy Horrors of a dismal Goal, the variegated Scene of Wretchedness among the deplorable Prisoners, and the Brutality of the insolent Underlings, augmented by the filthy Spot allotted him for his Repose, together with the Prospect of imminent Want, presented an Idea all frightful and horrid to a Man so unaccustomed with so rude, so barbarous, and so uncharitable a Place. In this uncomfortable Situation, Mr. *Smith* constantly retired to the most unfrequented Part of the Gaol, where he indulged a free Meditation, exempt from the Molestation of his illiterate, dissonant Companions; frequently

did he offer up his fervent Prayers to the supreme Author of his Being, both for the Preservation of his Life, and the Attainment of immortal Felicity; frequently did he make a private Recapitulation of his Offences, and bathed himself in the sorrowful Floods of Remorse and Anguish; but his Lamentations were somewhat alleviated by the Participation of his Grief by a worthy Friend in Confinement, who was the real Gentleman, who had distinguished him as a Person superior to the profligate Race, favoured him with a most intimate Acquaintance, and perpetually relieved both the clamorous Appetites of Hunger and Thirst.

Sensible of the Punishment adequate to his Crimes, Mr. *Smith* endeavoured to make his Reconciliation with an offended God; he acknowledged himself guilty of the Forgeries laid to his Charge; and, therefore, he acquainted his Friends of his Intention to plead Guilty; to which he was the more readily induced, because another Indictment was exhibited against him, pursuant to the Direction of the Commissioners of the *Navy*; besides which he had some particular Reasons for expecting that Mr. *Walpole* would make Intercession for his Life; however he was extremely disappointed.

On *Wednesday* the 12th of *September*, Mr. *Smith* was arraigned at the *Old Baily*, for the Forgery against Mr. *Weekes*; when he pleaded Guilty without any Hesitation: He was dressed very genteely; his Person was tall and graceful,

graceful, his Countenance without the least Sign of Dishonesty, which attracted the Observation, and commanded the Attention of the whole Court, while he eloquently addressed himself to the Bench in the following pathetic Speech :

“ MY LORD,

“ I am unhappy enough to stand here indicted for a Fact, which I perceive my Prosecutor is ready to prove against me; therefore, from a Consciousness of it, and to prevent giving the Court any unnecessary Trouble, I do confess my Guilt, and submissively rely on the Favour of the Court to intercede for my Life. — My Lord, I have thus much to say in Alleviation of my Crime, that this is the first Time I ever appeared before a Court of Justice in an ignominious Manner; that a Case of Necessity urged me to commit the Fact I am charged with; and that my Heart is full of Sorrow and Contrition for it. If, therefore, your Lordship, or Mr. Recorder, will be pleased to report me in this favourable Light to his Majesty, or the Lords in Power, it will, I hope, be the happy Means of inducing them to extend their Clemency towards me: But, if I am so unfortunate as not to be thought an Object worthy their Compassion, I trust, that the Lord of Heaven and Earth will have Mercy on me.”

This Speech was attended with so pitiful an Accent, as to draw the general Commiseration

tion of the Court: He knew the Consequence of pleading Guilty, and prepared himself to attend the Pronunciation of his Sentence with all the Tranquillity that could possibly be expected from a Man in his desperate Circumstances. During this dreadful Interval, how solemn, how penetrating was his Behaviour? The Idea of Eternity one Moment would appear horrible to his trembling Soul; in a few succeeding Moments he appeared all sedate and calm, as though he was blessed with Assurance of eternal Happiness; however, he made no Omission in his Sollicitations to the Great and to the Good for the Preservation of his Life; all which were ineffectual, and on the 19th of *September* he received Sentence of Death, when he made the following Speech to the Court;

“ MY LORD,

“ To what I said on the Day of my Trial,
 “ I have only on this melancholy Occasion
 “ to add, That my humble Confession then
 “ proceeded from a sincere Compunction of
 “ Heart in Abhorrence of my Crime. I there-
 “ fore now fervently pray that the Almighty,
 “ who is the bright Fountain of Mercy, will
 “ inspire his Majesty's Royal Breast with Sen-
 “ timents of Compassion towards me, and that,
 “ in Consideration of my unfeigned Sorrow
 “ and Penitence, he will be most graciously
 “ pleased to restore me my forfeited Life; a
 “ Life sought only to atone for the Errors of
 “ the past, and to pray for my Preservers.”

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The whole Town was now sensible of his Abilities; though the Crime was detested, every one pitied the Criminal; and this Speech not only made the strongest Impression on the Spectators, but even extorted the compassionate Sigh of Humanity from the venerable Expounders of the Law, and Delegates of Justice. When he was remanded back to the dismal Horrors of the Dungeon, he was incessantly petitioning the Mercy of Heaven, while his Friends were vainly soliciting the Legislature to spare his Life, and send him into perpetual Banishment. He addressed a Petition to the Commissioners of *Oyer and Terminer*, to several of the Bishops, and many of the Nobility; but the most remarkable were the two following:

AS strong Necessity, arising from the Want of a Friend to present the following Petition, is the urgent Motive that prevails on me to publish it, I submissively hope, that their Excellencies, to whom it is addressed, will dispense with such unprecedented Freedom: I do not thereby mean to offend; it is to implore their Clemency, which I do upon my Knees, in the Depth of Misery, and in the Anguish of a troubled Spirit.— And oh, thou eternal Goodness! to whom belongeth Mercy and Forgiveness, look down, I beseech thee, on a poor, helpless Creature; inspire them and all Mankind, O Lord! with Compassion towards thy sorrowful Servant; move them to pity the silent Sobs which my feeble Soul sendeth forth, surprized with Fear, and to regard
the

the broken Voice which my trembling Tongue
addreſſeth to them.

To their Excellencies the Lords of the Regency.

*The moſt humble and penitent Petition of Wil-
liam Smith, an unhappy Conviſt under
Sentence of Death in Newgate,*

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner was indicted laſt
Sefſions at the *Old Baily*, for forging a
Receipt in the Name of *Thomas Weekes*, on the
Back of a Bill of Exchange for 45*l.* and re-
ceiving the Contents; to which, as conſcious
of his Crime, he made no Heſitation of plead-
ing Guilty, and threw all his Hopes of Life
upon the Clemency of the Legiſlature.

That your Petitioner is the Son of the
Reverend *John Smith* Rector of the Pariſh of
Kilmore, in the Dioceſe of *Meath*, within the
Kingdom of *Ireland*, deceased; a Man of un-
blemished Character and exemplary Virtue,
who gave your Petitioner a liberal Education,
— but, alas! — to what a fatal End has that
paternal Indulgence been perverted! Tho-
roughly conſcious of his Infringement upon the
general Band of Society, and his Violation of
the ſacred Laws of the Kingdom, your Peti-
tioner owns the Rectitude of that Juſtice which
has devoted him a Victim to a premature
and ignominious Death; — but your Petiti-
oner has the Plea of Neceſſity to urge in Alle-
viation

violation of his Crime. It is the only Time he ever appeared as a Criminal before the Tribunal of Justice: His afflicted Heart throbs with all the Pangs of Remorse and Sorrow; his distracted Soul feels all the Anguish of Shame and Contrition; while he humbly hopes, while he penitentially implores the Mercy of the Legislature, that Mercy which can relieve the sinking Wretch from all the Horrors of imminent Destruction, that Mercy which can prolong a forfeited Life. May Heaven graciously incline the Ear of Power to gratify my penitent Solicitation! Oh, may I find the Restoration of Life! but may that Life be no longer continued, than every Action of it proves your Petitioner meritorious of the Royal Clemency. That I am guilty of those Crimes, is too fatally verified by my own Confession; I have been no further obnoxious to the Community, have no further trespassed upon the Laws of my Country: I have strong Sensations of Right and Wrong, of Equity and Injustice,—but, unhappy for me, Necessity in those unguarded Moments drove Reason from her Throne, and extinguished the precious Sentiments of Honour and of Honesty.

Mercy is the divinest Attribute of the Deity; oh! extend your Excellencies Clemency to an unfortunate Man, recal a poor Wretch from the Verge of Perdition; grant him but Life, and dispose of him as you please. How melancholy is the Consideration of being launched into the Gulph of Eternity! Dreadful Thought, to be plunged in the Arms

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of Death in the very Prime of Life! But, miserable Wretch that I am, I have intailed all this Calamity on myself; I have incurred the Rigour of the Law; but, alas! I tremble at the dreadful, the ignominious Execution of it. Spare, oh! spare a repenting Sinner; prolong a Life that shall be solely employed in attoning for my Crimes, and may I be an Exile from the Throne of celestial Grace, if my Penitence and Contrition is not proportioned to my Guilt: The Eternal, Glorious Author of my Being can penetrate to the most latent Recesses of the Soul, and surely that awful Power never filled the human Heart with more than mine: Apply the soothing Balm of Comfort to the afflicted Soul; commiserate an unhappy Man who has no merciful Intercessor, no charitable Hand to raise him. My great Creator may render this forfeited Life none of the most invaluable among Society.—If Mercy approaches me in this World, my Days shall be consecrated to the sincerest Repentance; but if I am unhappily precluded from the Clemency of the Legislature, not mine, but thy Will, O Lord! be done.

So fervently prayeth

the lost and unhappy

W. SMITH,

To the Right Hon. the Lady KATHARINE
PELHAM;

*The humble and penitential Petition of Wil-
liam Smith, an unhappy Convict under
Sentence of Death in Newgate,*

Sherweth,

THAT your Petitioner was indicted at the last Sessions at the *Old Baily*, for forging a Receipt on the Back of a Bill of Exchange for 45*l.* and receiving the Contents, of which he stands self-confessionally convicted, and is now fervently addressing himself to the supreme Author of Nature for the Inspiration of some charitable Heart to make Intercession for the Royal Clemency in his Behalf.

Sensibly afflicted with the Atröcity of my Crime, I submissively bow myself to the Shrine of offended Justice ; yet the Hopes of Mercy still accompany the last attenuated Thread of Life. Death with all its formidable Terrors may seem despicable to a Soul serene with conscious Innocence, but how terrible is an ignominious End to a poor Wretch, who shudders at the Thought of Annihilation, who trembles at the awful Idea of an incensed God ! Penitent as I am, how, miserable Sinner, how do I know the deep Contrition of my Soul can merit the divine Protection ; what Assurance can I form of escaping an eternal Perdition ? Tremendous Thought ! Horrid Uncertainty ! Well may the Prolon-

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gation of a criminal Life prove the Foundation of neglected Morality in this World, and reclaim the perverted Sinner, to pursue and merit the bright Hope of Redemption in the next. As a Christian, as a Lady, Humanity must have taken her Residence in your unpolluted Bosom; Oh! let the pitying Ear listen to the Voice of Affliction; Oh! let the tender Heart commiserate the Lamentations of a lost unhappy Man: Your gentle Nature, tho' it abhors my Crime, cannot but be susceptible of my Misery; and may the bright Beam of Mercy descend from the celestial Throne of Grace, to give your generous Heart the Inspiration of interceding for the Preservation of a guilty, but a penitent Malefactor: Procure me but Life, and let the Legislature dispose of me as they please: As I am a dying Man, every Promise of amending what of Life shall be allotted me, springs from my Heart, and may I be excluded from the Mansion of celestial Happiness, if my Penitence is not attended with the greatest Sincerity and Humility. If I live, my Days shall be devoted to the Expiation of my Guilt, and in the Praise of your Goodness; but if I must share the bitter Bowl with *Socrates*, while I am preferring my latest Petition to the gracious Lord of infinite Mercy, may he shower down all his Blessings on your Ladyship, is the fervent Prayer of the miserable, lost, and friendless,

W. S.

An

An ODE on the melancholy Condition of Mr.
Smith, an unhappy Convict now under Sen-
tence of Death in Newgate. Written by
himself.

*Seu Libra, seu me Scorpius aspicit
Formidolosus, pars violentior
Natalis horæ, seu tyrannus
Hesperiaæ Capricornus undæ.*

Hor. Lib. ii. Ode 17.

ONCE could I tune the *Sapphic* Lyre,
Or gently touch the rural Reed ;
Once could I soar with *Pindar's* Fire,
Or round *Aënia's* Mount could tread.
Ah ! now, *Meonides*, how dull thy Flame ?
Horace is mute, insipid *Maro's* Theme :
No more sweet *Clio* breathes her *Airs* divine,
But *Terpsichore* prompts the doleful Line !

II.

Seneca taught me how to live,
Oh ! *Lucan*, teach me how to die ;
For, while *Pharsalia's* Laurels thrive
The Bard expires without a Sigh :
How could *Serenity* invest thy Brow,
When all thy vital Flood was draining low ?
How could the Poet act the Sage's Part ?
—'Twas Innocence — but Guilt appalls my
Heart.

III.

Fear not, my Soul, a gracious God
Can all thy latent Purpose view ;

Jeho-

Jehovah yet can stay the Rod,
 Can drop down Mercy like the Dew;
 But oh! presumptuous Sinner; let thy Crime
 Condemn thee!—Yes, All-gracious Lord of
 Time!
 It does—Behold how penitential flow
 These Heart-felt Numbers—Heaven alone
 can know.

IV.

Justice has rank'd me with the Dead;
 I bow, and own the just Decree:
 Yet, e're each Sense, each Thought is fled,
 How shall I front the fatal Tree?
 Hope, Faith, the Christian Word, inform me
 how,
 With Resignation, to embrace the Blow:
 But ah, Eternity! tremendous Word!
 There, there, I sink, I tremble! Help me,
 Lord!

V.

The virtuous Precept, moral Page,
 Instructive fire maturing Youth:
 Yet, oh! how vain, if riper Age
 Neglects the sacred Path of Truth!
 Bred up in Plenty, and to Pleasure bred,
 Lo, here my wretched Food, my dismal Bed:
 Sigh not, my Soul, cease, cease the gushing Tear,
 Guilt merits Justice, nor is mine severe.

VI.

Great God of Mercy! while I bend
 In Supplication to thy Throne,
 Incline thine Ear, thy Grace extend,
 Hear, hear, my Sigh, nor slight my Groan;
 " Lord,

“ Lord, if kind Clemency preserves my Breath,
 “ Make me deserving of it :- but if Death
 “ Calls on me, oh ! my struggling Soul prepare,
 “ Receive me, Gracious God, Lord make me
 my Redeemer’s Heir.”

Mr. *Smith* found all his Sollicitations were ineffectual, which he could not refrain from attributing more to a splenetic Interest made against his Life, from a private Enemy, than to the Severity of impartial Justice ; nor indeed was he destitute of the strongest Foundation for corroborating his Suspicions.

The unhappy Criminal had so much engrossed the Conversation of the Town, that his P—— Mr. *W——* went to him, the Day after he was cast, and appeared before him with the greatest Concern ; when, according to the dying Declaration of Mr. *Smith*, he accosted him in the following Manner :
 “ Oh, my dear *Smith*, you have behaved yourself like a Man ; you are the Pity and
 “ Admiration of the whole Town ; how
 “ sorry I am for you ! What shall I do to
 “ serve you ? Only tell me, and I will do it.”
 Mr. *Smith* then unluckily requested he would go to, and solicit the Interest of a certain Gentleman ; which he promised to do, and left him.

On the Day of his Sentence, Mr. *W——*, publicly solicited the Intervention of the Court for Mercy ; but how inconsistent was such an Appearance of Humanity with his future Conduct, when he presented a Remonstrance

france to the Regency, begging Justice to be executed on the Criminal?

As to Mr. *W*——, a solemn Declaration was made by *Smith*, that he never was an Associate with *Patterson* in the Prosecution against him; he acknowledged that he deserved Death, but not by the treacherous Deceit he had received it in; however he prayed that the Almighty might forgive his Enemies, as he did from the Bottom of his Heart.

Mr. *Smith* had hitherto some Expectations of Life; but, when the dead Warrant came down for his Execution, every Hope of it was vanished: He then offered himself up to the Shrine of Justice, with a decent and devout Resignation; all his Thoughts towered above the sublunary World, and surely never was there a greater Instance of Contrition and Penitence. A short Time before his Execution, he wrote a Letter to one of his Friends, from whence the following Passages are extracted: “ Whither am I going? I “ hope into the Arms of the most merciful “ Saviour to be crowned with Glory. If “ sincere Contrition and unfeigned Repen- “ tance can intitle a Sinner to Mercy and “ Forgiveness, then my Hopes do not perish. “ Did it please God to prolong my Life, I “ believe, a greater Pattern of Morality had “ never been.—Oh, my dear Friend! how “ shall I return your Acts of Good-nature? “ Such Thanks as a dying Man can give, “ take: And, oh! may you and yours be “ happy,

“ happy, when I am no more. You are
 “ good, therefore, on my Knees, I beg your
 “ fervent Prayers : Necessity has made a
 “ Villain of me, but sincere Penitence, and
 “ a Consciousness of my Guilt, have, per-
 “ haps, made the greatest Convert of me in
 “ the World : Once more I beg you will pray
 “ for me, just going to be locked up ; what
 “ is necessary for me, I pray let it be done,
 “ and may the Almighty bless you. After I am
 “ dead and buried, will you write to my Mo-
 “ ther, Widow *Smith*, to be left at Mr. *W—*’s
 “ in *Dublin*, an Account of the whole ? How I
 “ fall lamented, &c. you know, oh ! my
 “ dear, dear, dear Friend ! farewell for ever.”

In a Letter to another of his Friends, the
 Day before his Execution he says, “ I have
 “ been a Transgressor of human and di-
 “ vine Laws ; I fall a Sacrifice to unjust Re-
 “ sentment, no doubt by the Almighty’s
 “ Appointment ; but die a sincere Penitent,
 “ hoping for Salvation through my blessed
 “ Redeemer, to whom I now commend my
 “ Spirit.”

As the last Sollicitation for the Enjoyment
 of Life, Mr. *Smith* wrote a Letter to his Ex-
 cellency *Henry Pelham*, Esq; one of the Lords
 of the Regency, in the following Terms :

Oh my dear, dear Sir !

IN what Form of Words shall a dying Man
 address you to excite Compassion ? There
 needs none, I am persuaded, for you are of a
 tender Nature : Upon my Knees then, with
 penitent Tears in my Eyes, I supplicate your

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Mercy.

Mercy. Oh! pardon my Distraction, pardon this Abruptness in a poor Creature, immersed in a Gulph of Sorrow, and in Want of a charitable Hand to raise him:—Thus kneeling, thus crawling on the Earth, I implore that Pity that can save my expiring Life: Hear, oh! hear my Prayer. You are the greatest Man breathing; as such, a poor Wretch, in the deepest Disconsolation and Anguish, prostrates himself at your Feet! Think it will be a Merit to save a Soul from Perdition.—And if a sincere Penitent deserves Mercy, yet, oh! yet extend it to me; I purpose to be a Pattern of Morality, and to make that Life more useful than my Death can be to Mankind. I will to my latest Breath pray for you, with such fervent Devotion, with such a contrite Spirit, that I hope the Almighty will hear my Petitions, and bless my kind Preserver. Oh, Sir, dear Sir! speak but the Word, and I am happy. Think on me, I pray; I now sue to you alone, the last, except the Almighty, I shall ever sue to. Listen to an unhappy Wretch's Lamentations, regard the sorrowful Sighs of an undone Man. Eternity! Oh! 'tis that dreadful Thought that shocks my Nature. Whither am I going to? I know not, and who can instruct me? For God's Sake, who rejoices in Acts of Mercy, spare me; for I would most willingly live, and still repent. Oh! hurry me not out of the World so soon; grant me but one Month, the Time I have employed in the hard Labour of writing and soliciting my Preservation, only to reconcile myself perfectly to an offended Deity, and, methinks, I shall,

shall, at the Expiration, chearfully resign this mortal Life. You are good, oh! you have a sympathizing Nature; I was told it lately run over for me in Tendernefs.

May the Almighty shower down his Blessings on you and yours: May you be happy in this World; and may you enjoy perfect Felicity in the next, such as is prepared for the Good and Merciful, like you; and, while I have any Being, it shall be the most fervent Prayer of the dying

W. S.

From my dismal Cell in Newgate,

Sept. 29, 1750.

I was informed two or three Things appeared against me before your Lordship on the Day the Report was made; I acknowledge I deserve Death; but, oh! Great Sir, did you only know the secret Spring of my undoing, you would pity me; indeed you would.

With all the Fortitude resulting from the sublimer Effects of Christianity, he began to welcome Death as a kind Friend, as a generous Benefactor; and, in this noble Perseverance, he had the Consolation of receiving the tender Benediction of the most eminent, most reverend, and most humane Prelate in the Kingdom. A Lady of Distinction waited, in the Behalf of this unfortunate Criminal, upon his Grace the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, at his Palace at *Lambeth*, with the importunate Request, for respiting his Life a little longer: The Lady received an easy Access to his Grace, and, upon her Knees, pathetically enforced the Petition of Mr. *Smith*; but his

Grace acquainted the Lady, that, though he commiserated the melancholy Situation of the Criminal, there was no Possibility of obtaining an Order for respiting his Execution ; that he had highly incurred the Rigour of Justice, and he must submit to the Punishment, inflicted against him by the Laws of his offended Country : “ However, continued his Grace, “ tell him, from me, that, if his Penitence “ flows from the Springs of Sincerity, he has “ no Occasion to wish for the Prolongation of “ Life ; tell him, he is, if ever Sinner was, “ intitled to a more permanent Felicity ; assure him, from me, he ought to despise the “ Terrors of Death, and embrace the Moment that will convey him to the Presence “ of his God, that will rank him among the “ Number of Angels : His Preparation for “ Death seems amply and devoutly made ; let “ him contentedly submit to his Fate ; he has “ my best Prayers for the eternal Welfare of “ his Soul, but his Body must suffer the “ fatal Sentence of the Law.”

Next to the lenient Extension of the legislative Clemency, this Episcopal Benediction was the most salutary Intelligence that could raise the drooping Spirits of a poor Criminal, lingering beneath the gloomy Apprehensions of a violent and ignominious Death ; he most earnestly prayed for the Welfare of so benevolent a Prelate : Faith gave him Assurance of the Merits and the Mercy of a blessed Messiah ; Hope conveyed to him the pleasing Expectation of a glorious Eternity ; and Charity, beaming her sacred Influence on his Soul, taught him to forget every Enemy, to forgive every Injury,

jury, and to seek for everlasting Happiness, with a Heart all calm and tranquil, as that of the smiling, inoffensive Infant, who gently falls into the Arms of Sleep. Each desponding Tumult of the Soul was now appeased; every mortal Care subsided, like the smooth Bosom of the placid Sea, when the rude Winds have ceased their boisterous Contention: But, while he was diligently taking each preparatory Step for Immortality, his corporeal Substance attracted his Attention; which occasioned the Publication of a supplicatory Letter to the Public, inserted in the *London-Gazetteer* of September 29, and October 1.

As the fatal Moment was approaching, he was incessantly addressing himself to his omnipotent Creator, to his all-gracious Redeemer; he found that his last Advertisement was prevalent on so many humane and charitable Dispositions, that there was a sufficient Contribution for repositing his Remains with that Decency he so urgently requested; and sure, if ever the Prayers of an offending Sinner ascended to the bright Throne of Mercy, the humble, the sorrowful, the penitential Implorations of this unhappy Criminal must have found a grateful Acceptation, must have attracted the mediatorial Offices of every Saint, and must have been productive of that Expiation which washes away the peccatorial Stain of terrestrial Pollution.

While his Soul was thus elevated above the grosser Sensations of her corporeal Partner, often would he make the solemn Repetition of that tender, elegant, and moving Address of *Adrian* to his departing Soul; often would he
bend

bend to his great Creator, and deliberately pronounce the moral Prayer of *Cleanthes*, the Christian Heathen ; often would he think on the divine Beauties of *Plato*, the virtuous Disquisitions of *Seneca*, the great Deportment of the dying *Socrates* ; and in these Ejaculations, the following Numbers came naturally flowing from his Heart.

O D E.

———*Non Siculae dapes
Dulcem elaborabunt saporem :
Non avium, citharæque cantus
Somnum reducent.*

HORACE.

I.

WHILE my Fate approaches near,
Tell me, *Conscience*, art thou clear ?
How shall I, poor Sinner, fly
To the empyrean Sky ?
How shall I to *Jesus* bow ?
Tell me, my Soul, oh ! tell me how !

II.

Life, what art thou, trivial Thing ?
Death, ah ! now where is thy Sting ?
Gracious *Shiloh*, Lord of Love,
Cheers the Soul through Worlds to rove ;
Through the Planetary Sphere,
I seek my God, my Saviour, there.

III.

Hush, my Fears ; cease, cease this Strife,
Ah ! I long to launch through Life :
Shoot, my Soul, from Earth away,
Wanton through yon Realms of Day ;
Angels there thy Presence wait,
Haste, haste, oh ! haste, to *Sion's* Gate.

IV. E'er

IV.

E'er from *Chaos* Order sprung ;
 E'er Earth's Orbit ballanc'd hung ;
 E'er the golden Sun was seen ;
 E'er shone forth the lunar Queen ;
 E'er his *Eden Adam* knew,
 My God, for me, his Mercy drew.

V.

Vilest Reptile, how canst thou
 Prescience thus presume to know ?
 Tremble, Wretch, fear, fear the Rod
 Of thy just, thy awful God :
 Ah ! Perdition :—cease to beat,
 Poor Heart ! my God is good and great.

VI.

Hark, my Soul, thy Saviour say,
 " Hasten thee, Mortal, hasten away :"
 Hark, I'm call'd ; lo ! Angels here
 Invite me ! lead me, lead me there :
 See I mount ! 'tis Rapture all,
 Delusive Transport,—now I fall,

VII.

Silent, drooping, cheerless, dead,
 Now I bow the pensive Head ;
 Horror shivers through my Veins,
 Melancholy o'er me reigns ;
 Friends, Friends, come glaring to my View,
 Hide, hide me from the ghastly Crew.

VIII

Lo ! descending from above,
 Mercy hov'ring like a Dove :
 Drive, my Soul, each Care away,
 Quit, oh ! quit, this shameful Clay ;
 Spring to the Skies : Lord, Lord, I come,
 Oh ! take me, Angels, take me Home.

The

The *Sunday* before his Execution, he attended with the rest of the unfortunate Malefactors at the Funeral Sermon preached by the Ordinary of *Newgate*, though he did not receive the Administration of the Sacrament till the Morning of his Execution; but the Ordinary, notwithstanding all his Sollicitations, could never extort from him that Confession which he intended himself to deliver to the World by the Publication of this Pamphlet.

The last Hour of his Life was now approaching; the Night before his Execution was employed in continual Prayer, nor was the leaden Mace of Sleep sufficiently incumbent to charm his busy Soul to Rest: When Morning came he hailed the dread Moment that must enfranchise his noble and immortal Being from its vile and mortal Tenement; he prayed with all the Grace of solemn Piety, for the Remission of all his Sins, the Preservation of all his Enemies, the Happiness of all his Friends, and the Welfare of all Mankind, with whom he died in perfect Charity. On *Wednesday* the 3d of *October*, the Officers of Justice made their accustomed Appearance for conducting the unhappy Malefactors to the Place of Execution: Mr. *Smith* at that Time received the Sacrament with the most exemplary Piety; after which he dressed himself, and did it with as much Pleasure as if he was preparing himself for the Festivity of Mirth.

As soon as he was tied with the Rope, he kneeled down before a Bench in the Press-Yard, where he made an extempore Prayer, which

which he uttered so pathetically and with such Solemnity as to draw the tender Tear of Compassion from the Savage Herd of *Newgate*.

Mr. *Smith* held Life beneath his Estimation, but the thoughts of his ignominious Death shuddered all his Soul; however he soon recovered himself, and, by his graceful Behaviour, extorted universal Pity. As he was a very personable Man, he drew uncommon Attention from the Populace, which was increased on Account of the Gentility of his Dress; he took no Notice of the numerous Spectators, but, with Eyes directed constantly to Heaven, implored the divine Mercy, till his Arrival at *Tyburn*, where he behaved with all the graceful Resolution of a Man, and all the pious Decency of a Christian: He intended to have made a dying Declaration in Vindication of his Character from an opprobrious Asperision; but, as it would be prejudicial to others, he was dissuaded from it by a Friend, whose Advice he obeyed with the greatest Conformity: His last Words were an Invocation to his Redeemer, when he suffered the Deprivation of Life with such an easy Deportment as manifested he met Death as cordially as the Embraces of a Friend.

If the Life of Mr. *Smith* was pernicious to Society, his Death was of Utility to it, by strongly depicting the Calamities in which a sensible Man may involve himself, when Vice so triumphantly exalts her Throne upon the Ruins of Reason, eradicating every bright and exalted Principle of Honour and Integrity from the Soul. Let the World, from this unhappy Criminal, behold an exemplary In-

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stance

stance of the Fatality attendant on the unguarded Hours and fyren Follies of unwary Youth ; his Life was a Scene of Guilt, his Death an instructive Scene of Misery. If his Crimes were atrocious, his Penitence was admirable ; if his Life was erroneous, his Death was laudably suffered : As a Criminal, he justly merited the Stroke of Justice ; as a Man, he could not fail of attracting the Sigh of Compassion ; Infamy should blast a living Villain, but Obloquy should never insult the Memory of the Dead ; all Crimes should be extinguished in the Grave, and it is the Tenent of Christianity to speak all the Good we can of the Dead, but to conceal the Evil : As this poor Criminal so devoutly bowed before the Shrine of Justice, let us hope all his Wickedness is expunged by Repentance ; let us hope he has made his Appearance before the Throne of eternal Justice, that he is the favoured Son of Adoption, dwells in the glorious Presence of his Redeemer, hymns Hallelujahs to the great *Jehovah*, and enjoys that Felicity allotted to Men through the Merits of a Saviour, through the Blood of a *Messiah*.

P. S. Other Crimes, than what are related in this Pamphlet, have been uncharitably alleged against this unfortunate Criminal ; but why was the Publication of them deferred till the Day before his Execution, when he had no Opportunity of vindicating himself ? He confessed no more than what is here communicated to the Public.

F I N I S.